

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 4-5 and 8-13 are withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 2 are amended; Claims 17 and 18 are added; and no claims are canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,978,820 to Aoki in view of WO 2004/104357 to Chino, JP 7229377 to Mamoru, and U.S. Patent No. 5,775,814 to Agari; and Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Aoki, Chino, Mamoru, Agari and further in view of JP 7173979 to Yukihiko.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) those rejections are respectfully traversed. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest a net guide that connects a plurality of guiding elements formed of a bottom portion and a pair of rising wall portions with at least one of the rising wall portions has an inner rail on an inner wall face, and an outer rail on an outer wall face and forms a series of guide rails by making the inner and outer rails contact each other between adjoining guiding elements, the net guides being in contact with each other at the rising wall portions of the adjoining guiding elements, and the guide rail is provided with a net-holding member that has a first engaging portion arranged on a side of the inner wall face of the raising wall portion and a second engaging portion arranged on a side of the outer wall face of the rising wall portion, the first engaging portion engages with the inner rail of the guide rail, and the second engaging portion engages with the outer rail of the guide rail, and the net-holding

member is disposed across the outer and inner wall faces of the rising wall portion of the guiding element, as recited in Claim 1.

In the outstanding Office Action with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 based in part on Mamoru and Agari, the Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to make the net guide of Mamoru be disposed across the outer and inner faces of the rising wall portion and hung on a tip end of the rising wall as taught by Agari in order to allow the guide to move linearly and relatively with the track as well as hold it securely to the track. Applicants disagree that one of skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of the applied to arrive at the claimed invention.

In particular, Mamoru discusses a net holding member 20 includes an attachment part 21 to engage with the lower part of the net 2. A leg 22 projects from the substrate 23 and includes a piece 29 located in the groove 30. The groove 30 is provided with the slot frame part 4e which makes the C type with the guide wall 4b. As such, the groove 30 guides both ends of the piece 29 in an effort to stop the holding member 20 from rotating upwards but allowing the holding member 20 to move level with leg 22.

The Office Action acknowledges that Mamoru does not teach or suggest a net guide disposed across outer and inner faces of the rising wall portion and hung on a tip end of the rising wall. The Office Action asserts that Agari teaches this feature and it would have been obvious to modify Mamoru with the teachings of Agari. However, Agari relates to a linear motion rolling guide unit applied to a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus, a transfer apparatus, an industrial robot, an assembly robot and a machine tool, and having a slider slide relative to a track rail. In Agari, the linear motion rolling guide unit includes a track rail 2 having grooves 4 in both of its longitudinally extending side surfaces 3, and a slider 1 saddled on and capable of being moved relative to the track rail 2. Agari is not analogous art and is

not directed to the problems addressed by the present invention, and would not suggest modification of Mamoru to arrive at the combined features of the claimed invention.

Under a 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection, the one that determines the obviousness is a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. However, the subject to which the present invention is directed is “sliding screen door,” and the technical field to which the sliding screen door belongs is “fixtures.” As discussed above, the technical field to which Agari ‘814 belongs is semiconductor manufacturing apparatus, transfer apparatus, industrial robot, assembly robot, and industrial machinery such as machine tool. These two technical fields have little, if any, relationship with respect to each other, and it can be said they are entirely different from each other.

Accordingly, assuming arguendo that Agari makes up for the deficiencies of the remaining applied art, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings in the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention. Again, Agari belongs to the technical field of “industrial machinery,” which is completely different from one of ordinary skill in the art of “fixtures.” A person having ordinary skill in the art of “fixtures” would not have a thorough knowledge of technologies belonging to the technical field of “industrial machinery.” As such, Applicants submit that one of skill in the art would not combine the teachings in the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest that the inner rail is formed in a position closer than the outer rail to a tip end portion that faces the rising direction of the rising wall portion, as recited in new Claim 17. In accordance with the claimed features, it is possible to make the rising wall portions of the guiding elements thinner and, at the same time, effectively prevent the net-holding member from being detached from the guide rail.

In accordance with one or more examples of the claimed invention, since the serial contacting face of the guiding element that constitutes the net guide is in contact with each other, the net guide can be not only provided with a simple construction at lower cost, but also stably operated, while the capability of maintenance can be improved. In addition, when the net guide is led out along the end portion of the net, the serial contacting face of each of the adjoining guiding elements is configured to be serially in contact with each other, and thereby the net is prevented from curving in a horizontal direction and the end portion of the aforementioned net can be always stably guided. In addition, since the net guide can be formed of a series of guide rails being serially in contact with each other between the adjoining guiding elements at the rising wall portion when the net guide is led out along the lower end portion of the net in a stretched condition, the holding member for the net can be movably disposed along the guide rail and the movement of the holding member along the guide rails can be smooth.


The features of the claimed invention are not taught in the applied art and therefore, the applied art cannot provide at least the advantages discussed above. Withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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